



# MHSR 2025 Annual Report



A Healthy Community Through Mobile Outreach

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## **Letter from the Board Chair**

### **Michael Essien Jr.**

**This past year marked another important milestone in the journey of the Mobile Foundation for Health, Security, and Rehabilitation (MHSR). It reflects years of sustained effort and a deliberate commitment to stand with communities that are often left behind. What began as a youth-led initiative has evolved into a credible platform advancing health access, human rights, advocacy, capacity building, mentorship, and social inclusion. In 2025, this growth was evident in the resilience, scale, quality, and impact of our interventions.**

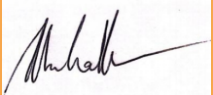
**Throughout the year, MHSR deepened its engagement within underserved communities, strengthening its role as a trusted partner in health and development. Our outreach programs, safe spaces, and community-led initiatives went beyond service delivery to foster trust, empowerment, and meaningful participation. Through targeted health education, referrals, and community engagement, we ensured that services reached those most in need in ways that were inclusive, respectful, and responsive.**

**MHSR also reinforced its leadership in advocacy and systems strengthening, with increased focus on capacity building, mentorship, and skill acquisition for young people and community stakeholders. Through strategic engagements, research, and evidence-based advocacy, we contributed to conversations on equity, stigma reduction, and the protection of vulnerable populations, ensuring that lived experiences continue to inform policy and practice.**

**Our progress was made possible through strong partnerships with community networks, government agencies, and international organizations, which enhanced our reach and sustainability. Together, we are strengthening systems that respond to real needs and drive lasting change.**

**As we look ahead, MHSR remains firmly committed to advancing health, equity, human rights, and youth empowerment through sustained capacity building, advocacy, mentorship, and skill development. Our journey is defined not only by growth, but by continued relevance, impact, and responsiveness to emerging challenges.**

**On behalf of the Board, I extend sincere appreciation to our dedicated team, volunteers, partners, and supporters whose commitment made 2025 a meaningful success. The path ahead will require even greater resolve, but we are well positioned to continue building impact.**



*Michael Essien Jr.  
Board Chairman*



**MHSR also enhanced its research and innovation agenda, generating evidence to inform programming and strengthen public health responses.**

**Internally, we invested in staff development, organizational systems, and leadership growth to ensure long-term sustainability and improved program efficiency.**

**At the heart of these achievements is the strength and resilience of the communities we serve. I extend deep appreciation to our staff, volunteers, partners, donors, and community members whose trust and commitment continue to sustain our work.**

## **Letter from the Executive Director**

### **Ozo Osahon Michael**

**As we bring 2025 to a close, I reflect on a year that was both demanding and impactful for the Mobile Foundation for Health, Security, and Rehabilitation (MHSR). The year tested our resilience, adaptability, and commitment, especially within a changing funding environment, widening health inequities, and rising social vulnerabilities. Despite these challenges, MHSR remained firmly focused on its mission to improve the health and well-being of marginalized and underserved communities across Nigeria.**

**Beyond service delivery, 2025 marked significant growth in our capacity building, advocacy, mentorship, and skill acquisition initiatives. We expanded community-driven training programs that equipped young people, volunteers, and stakeholders with practical skills in health awareness, leadership, and community engagement. Our advocacy efforts were also strengthened through policy dialogues, community sensitization, and strategic partnerships aimed at reducing stigma, improving access to care, and addressing structural barriers affecting vulnerable populations. In addition, mentorship programs and skill-building initiatives empowered young people to become active contributors to their communities and drivers of positive change.**

Throughout the year, we worked within complex operating conditions shaped by funding uncertainties and evolving health priorities. In response, MHSR strengthened its service delivery to ensure continuity of essential health interventions, including sexual and reproductive health services, STI prevention and testing, and broader community health outreach. Special attention was given to adolescents and young people in slums, rural, and semi-urban communities, as well as vulnerable and socially excluded groups, ensuring that equity and inclusion remained central to all interventions.

As we move into 2026, MHSR remains committed to scaling its impact through expanded capacity building, deeper advocacy, stronger mentorship systems, and broader skill acquisition programs. We will continue working to build inclusive, empowered, and healthier communities where individuals can live with dignity, opportunity, and resilience...

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ozo Osahon', with a period at the end.

*Ozo Osahon (Michael Ate/They/Them)*

*Executive Director*

# 2025 Summary

In 2025, MHSR was able to implement project activities which covers Safety and security Trainings, Mental Health and psychosocial support and other encompassing Health service delivery. We collaborate with like-minded organizations both local and international, government agencies, and local communities to build a healthier, more equitable future for all. Our partnerships are integral to scaling our impact and achieving sustainable change.

MHSR strengthened the protection of LGBTQIA+ individuals and other marginalized groups by documenting human right abuses, delivering rapid response interventions, providing legal assistance, and advancing advocacy at the national level. We adequately sustained a 24/7 support helpline, engage and strengthened partnership with key stakeholders including law enforcement agencies ,state and non state actors

MHSR advanced data-driven advocacy and narrative transformation through the production of national reports, participation in regional and global research forums, and the use of award-winning storytelling. Creative arts and media platforms were also leveraged to elevate queer voices and counter harmful narratives.

MHSR expanded access to inclusive and affirming mental health services by offering therapy, strengthening support groups in the face of cut funds and support for HIV/AIDS , while delivering survivor-centered care. The organization also led nationwide discussions addressing conversion practices and promoting psychosocial well-being

MHSR increased access to inclusive sexual and reproductive health services, including HIV care, for key populations. With NYNETHA Lagos state Chapter intervention ,Comprehensive Sexuality Education,CSE We were able to leverage on partnership on community-led approaches, the organization provided stigma-free healthcare, health education, and essential commodities to hundreds of beneficiaries.

All this was made possible by our funders, partners, allies and volunteers who supported us in 2025



# OUR 2025 INITIATIVES

## \$400k+

## The Funding MHSR Received in 2025

In 2025, with the help of funders and donors, MHSR launched several transformative initiatives that reinforced our commitment to advancing human rights, sexual health, and capacity building for marginalized communities. Through strategic partnerships, research-driven advocacy, and grassroots engagement, we addressed critical issues affecting the human rights of LGBTQIA+ individuals, Adolescent young women and girls, women living with HIV and women living with disabilities and other vulnerable groups across Lagos and Edo state. These initiatives focused on empowering individuals, amplifying voices, and creating sustainable change. The next pages highlight some of the key projects and milestones that defined our work in 2025, driving progress toward equality, justice, and dignity for all.



# IWOSAN (LAFIYA) Training 2025

MHSR conducted a community-based research initiative focused on HIV and Syphilis among vulnerable and underserved young people aged 15–24 in Lagos, Nigeria. A key example is the IWOSAN (LAFIYA) study, implemented in December 2024 to January 2025 as a two-week, community-driven project in urban slums. The study addressed intersectional stigma related to HIV, sexual orientation, and socio-economic status among sexually active young men, while increasing awareness and uptake of HIV self-testing, promoting safer sexual practices, and strengthening referral systems to ensure effective linkage to care for those who tested positive.



# Hepatitis B Capacity Building

In March 2025, MHSR conducted a targeted capacity-building session on Hepatitis B at its facility, engaging key stakeholders from EHRAAI, and NHVMAS. The session focused on strengthening participants' knowledge of Hepatitis B, with emphasis on its routes of transmission, including blood contact, unprotected sexual activity, and mother-to-child transmission. It also addressed common myths and misconceptions that hinder prevention and testing efforts, while drawing clear comparisons with HIV to improve understanding of similarities and differences in transmission, prevention, and long-term health impact. Participants were further sensitized to the dangers of untreated Hepatitis B, including liver complications such as cirrhosis and cancer. The training enhanced stakeholders' capacity to integrate Hepatitis B awareness into ongoing HIV and SRHR interventions, improve community education, and support early testing and referral for care, thereby strengthening a more holistic and informed public health response.



# NAPTIP Lagos Training & Engagement

GEF Southwest Consortium (TRAHI, MHSR, CEPHO), funded by the Global Fund, held a strategic engagement with NAPTIP Lagos to strengthen the Inclusive HIV, TB, and Malaria (HTM) Project targeting key populations, marginalized women, girls, and adolescents in Lagos and Ogun States. The session included 20 NAPTIP officers, goodwill messages, and a project overview by Paul Bennett highlighting inclusive health access, policy advocacy, and outreach expansion. Discussions addressed integration of boys and men in SRHR programming and disability inclusion, revealing gaps at the Lagos Command level. Barr. Ada Ochubili presented how enforcement activities affect HTM service uptake, emphasizing barriers from stigma, criminalization, and resource diversion. Key recommendations included trauma-informed training, inter-agency coordination, disability inclusion, empowerment programs for survivors, and formal integration of HTM services into NAPTIP care. Action points focused on joint planning, advocacy, and sustained collaboration to improve HIV, TB, and Malaria outcomes among vulnerable populations.



# Training for Gender Unit Officers – Police College Ikeja, Lagos



GEF Southwest Consortium (TRAHI, MHSR, CEPHO), funded by the Global Fund, conducted a training for 20 Gender Unit Officers of the Nigeria Police Force to strengthen inclusive responses to HIV, TB, and Malaria (HTM) among marginalized women, girls, and gender-diverse populations in Lagos and Ogun States. Facilitated by Barr. Adaora Ochubili, sessions highlighted how policing impacts public health, including barriers to testing, treatment interruptions, and stigma affecting key populations. Key action points included establishing police–health referral pathways, secure evidence storage, trauma-informed policing, continuity of care in detention, routine TB screening, safe zones for health service access, and coordination with field teams for malaria interventions. The training emphasized human-rights approaches, community policing, and collaborative frameworks with health agencies. Officers gained enhanced skills to balance effective law enforcement with rights-based, survivor-centered support, ensuring unhindered access to essential HTM services.



# GEF SOUTHWEST CONSORTIUM LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP 2.0



The GEF Southwest Consortium Leadership Workshop successfully convened young women leaders, girls, and LGBTI representatives from across Southwest Nigeria to strengthen leadership capacity, community engagement, and collective advocacy. The workshop provided a safe and inclusive space for participants to discuss challenges affecting marginalized communities, including discrimination, limited access to opportunities, and safety concerns. Through interactive sessions, mentorship, and group discussions, participants enhanced their knowledge in leadership development, strategic advocacy, networking, and movement building. The workshop also fostered collaboration among participants, encouraging unity, resilience, and sustainable community-driven initiatives aimed at advancing inclusion, empowerment, and human rights within their respective communities.



# ADVOCACY VISIT TO LSACA



MHSR conducted an advocacy visit to LSACA to strengthen collaboration and enhance inclusive programming for young women, girls, and LGBTQIA+ groups in Lagos State. The meeting focused on addressing barriers affecting access to healthcare, HIV services, protection, and psychosocial support for marginalized communities. Discussions emphasized the importance of community-led interventions, policy inclusion, and strategic partnerships to improve outreach and service delivery. Both organizations explored opportunities for joint initiatives, capacity building, data-driven advocacy, and sustainable engagement aimed at promoting health equity, human rights, empowerment, and safer spaces for vulnerable populations across the state.



# ONE DAY STAKEHOLDERS MEETING ON DISEMINATION OF LAGOS STATE HIV PREVENTION PLAN 2025-2027

The One-Day Stakeholders Meeting on the Dissemination of the Lagos State HIV Prevention Plan 2025–2027 brought together key government agencies, civil society organizations, development partners, and community representatives to review and disseminate the Lagos State HIV Prevention Plan 2025–2027. MHSR actively participated in the meeting, reaffirming its commitment to advancing HIV prevention, community engagement, and inclusive healthcare services for vulnerable populations. The Executive Director of MHSR, serving as Chairman of the Technical Working Group (TWG) Committee, played a significant leadership role in guiding discussions and promoting collaborative strategies for effective implementation of the prevention plan. The meeting strengthened stakeholder coordination, policy alignment, and collective commitment toward reducing HIV transmission across Lagos State.



# COMMUNITY HIV PEER SESSION TRAINING

The Community HIV Prevention and SRHR Peer Session Training for MSM in Edo State was organized to strengthen peer-led HIV prevention and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) service delivery among men who have sex with men (MSM). The training equipped participants with accurate information on HIV prevention methods, safer sex practices, stigma reduction, and referral pathways for health services. It also built capacity on peer education, community mobilization, and rights-based advocacy to improve access to inclusive healthcare. Participants engaged in interactive discussions and experience sharing, enhancing their ability to support community members and reduce barriers to services. The session reinforced commitment to community-led responses in advancing HIV prevention and SRHR for MSM in Edo State.



# HEARTLAND ALLIANCE LTD/GTE AND PARTNERS MEETING WITH USAID & LSACA



MHSR and HALG held a strategic partners meeting with USAID and LSACA in Lagos to strengthen collaboration on HIV prevention and community-led response initiatives.

The meeting focused on aligning program priorities, improving coordination of HIV prevention services, and enhancing support for young women, girls, and LGBTI communities in Lagos State. Discussions highlighted the importance of sustainable funding, data-driven programming, and inclusive service delivery models that address gaps in access for key populations.

Partners reaffirmed their commitment to joint implementation strategies, strengthened referral systems, and advocacy for equitable health outcomes, while exploring opportunities for expanded technical support and long-term collaboration to improve HIV response effectiveness in the state.



# GEF SOUTHWEST CONSORTIUM STAKEHOLDERS MEETING WITH MDAs, NETWORKS, CSOs

The GEF Southwest Consortium Strategic Stakeholders Engagement Meeting convened key actors from networks, Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), civil society organizations (CSOs), and community representatives from Lagos and Ogun States. The engagement aimed to strengthen coordination, deepen partnerships, and enhance collective action on issues affecting young women, girls, and LGBTI communities.

Discussions focused on improving policy implementation, expanding inclusive programming, and addressing structural barriers to health, protection, and social services. Participants shared updates on ongoing interventions, identified collaboration opportunities, and reinforced referral and accountability systems across sectors.

The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to sustained multi-stakeholder collaboration, improved data-driven programming, and strengthened advocacy efforts to promote equity, inclusion, and community-led development across both states.



# IGBOYA GAMES 2.0

The Igboya Games 2.0, an initiative of MHSR in partnership with TRAHl, TIMED, TPLP, and TMS, RHRI successfully brought together LGBTQI+ community members for a vibrant pride-focused engagement.

The event provided a safe, inclusive, and affirming space for participants to celebrate identity, promote mental well-being, and strengthen community solidarity through sports, games, and interactive activities. It also served as a platform for dialogue on human rights, stigma reduction, and access to health and psychosocial support services.

The collaboration between partner organizations strengthened community visibility, fostered unity, and reinforced collective advocacy for inclusion, dignity, and protection of LGBTQI+ persons in Nigeria.



# Training for NDLEA – Lagos State Command, Ikoyi



GEF Southwest Consortium engaged the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) Lagos to strengthen collaboration on the Inclusive HIV, TB, and Malaria (HTM) Project for key populations, marginalized women, girls, and AGYW in Lagos and Ogun States (2024–2026). The session included introductions, project overview, and discussions on community drug-use prevention and harm reduction. NDLEA highlighted challenges such as cultural stigma, criminalization perceptions, inter-agency rivalry, and funding gaps. Key recommendations included officer training on prevention and harm reduction, joint NGO–NDLEA sensitization campaigns in high-burden areas (Agege, Oshodi, Mushin), community-based research, empowerment programs for field officers, and enhanced advocacy with NDLEA HQ. The engagement emphasized NGO–law enforcement collaboration to expand community outreach, improve inclusive HTM service access, and strengthen evidence-based interventions. Both parties committed to ongoing coordination, capacity building, and expansion of prevention services across Lagos State





# World AIDS DAY 2025



MHSR joined stakeholders to commemorate World AIDS Day 2025 under the theme “Overcoming Disruption and Sustaining HIV Response.” Activities included a State Awareness Walk across Ikeja and an LSACA Empowerment Program at the House of Assembly, targeting People Living with HIV (PLHIV) including women, girls, LGBTQI+ persons, and persons with disabilities.

Over 20 CBOs, IPs, Ministry of Health and LSACA representatives, volunteers, and peer educators participated, promoting HIV testing, treatment adherence, zero discrimination, and community-led advocacy. The empowerment session provided vocational support, livelihood materials, and referrals, strengthening socio-economic resilience and treatment adherence. Beneficiaries shared testimonies highlighting the importance of inclusion, non-discrimination, and community support. Key achievements included heightened public awareness, strengthened multi-stakeholder partnerships, and enhanced visibility for marginalized populations. Challenges included crowd management and high demand for empowerment materials. Recommendations called for expanded collaboration, media engagement, and increased resources for PLHIV-focused programs.

MHSR reaffirmed its commitment to inclusive HIV advocacy, empowerment, and service delivery across Lagos State



# ICASA Conference 2025 Accra, Ghana

The International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA) 2025 convened over 8,000 delegates from 80+ countries to advance Africa's HIV, TB, and malaria response under the theme "Africa in Action: Catalysing Integrated Sustainable Responses." Activities included plenaries, scientific tracks, youth dialogues, community village exhibitions, and capacity-building workshops.

A highlight was Hauwa Adegbite's Track D abstract on gender- and rights-based HIV interventions for young women and LGBTQ+ communities in Lagos and Ogun States, earning the **Best Abstract Award**. Her research demonstrated peer-led models increased HIV self-testing, PrEP adherence, and reduced stigma.

Key outcomes included strengthened multi-stakeholder networks, recognition of emerging African scholars, promotion of youth- and community-led approaches, and advocacy for rights-based, inclusive HIV policies.

Recommendations emphasized gender-transformative policies, funding for community-led research, integration of HIV with mental health and GBV services, and flexible donor support.

ICASA 2025 reinforced Africa's commitment to ending AIDS through equity, innovation, and community leadership.



# ECSE Peer Education Training

As part of its core values of empowerment, inclusion, and community support, MHSR actively supported the NYNETHA Edo State Chapter by providing office space for members, a safe hall for the training, and active participation in the intervention. On 26 September 2025, NYNETHA conducted a one-day Enhanced Comprehensive Sexuality Education (ECSE) training for 20 peer educators from diverse Key Population groups (MSM, FSW, PWID, transgender persons). The training equipped participants with rights-based SRH knowledge, facilitation skills, and the capacity to promote inclusion, reduce stigma, and link peers to services. Pre- and post-training assessments showed substantial improvements in SRHR/CSE knowledge (+37%), facilitation confidence (+39%), referral awareness (+33%), and stigma-challenging ability (+39%).



# 7th National Council on AIDS (NCA)

The 7th NCA convened stakeholders to advance HIV sustainability amid changing global aid. Day 1 opened with prayers, national anthem, and addresses from Dr. Daniel Ndukwe, LSACA CEO Dr. Folakemi Animashaun, NACA DG Dr. Temitope Ilori, and Lagos State dignitaries, highlighting domestic funding, equity, and inclusive HIV access. Technical sessions emphasized donor transition, innovative financing, CSO strengthening, and accountability. Day 2 focused on multi-sectoral collaboration, sub-national system strengthening, UHC integration, and rights-based responses. Discussions stressed domestic resource mobilization, PHC strengthening, and community monitoring. Day 3 concluded with resolutions adopting domestic funding increases, HIV integration into UHC, improved M&E, policy support for key populations, public-private partnerships, and community-led program design. Rivers State was announced as host of the 8th NCA



# Raffaele Masto Award (African Best Activist, 2nd Edition)

Ozo Osahon Michael, Executive Director of MHSR, was honored in Milan, Italy, with the Raffaele Masto Award (African Best Activist, 2nd Edition) for his outstanding advocacy for marginalized communities. Invited by the Italian Embassy during Independence Day, he engaged in high-level discussions focused on improving Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and mental wellbeing for Black immigrants in Europe. His activities included lectures at Verona Teaching Hospital and Verona University, partnerships with organizations like Circolo Pink, and media engagements to raise awareness. Through these efforts, he continues to promote inclusion, dignity, and social support for Black sexual minorities across Europe.

Ozo Osahon Michael: A Champion for Change



# PARTNERSHIPS



By working closely with human rights organizations, advocacy groups, research institutions, and grassroots movements, we have been able to share knowledge, pool resources, and implement programs that drive real change. These partnerships have strengthened our ability to provide legal aid, document human rights violations, engage in policy advocacy, and create public education initiatives that challenge discrimination and misconceptions.

At MHSR, collaboration is the foundation of our success. We recognize that meaningful change is not achieved in isolation, but through collective action with dedicated allies, organizations, and advocates, like Global Fund, GEF Southwest consortium and other civil society organization, who share our vision for a more just and inclusive society. Our strategic partnerships—both locally and internationally—enable us to amplify our impact, extend our reach, and create sustainable solutions that address systemic inequalities.



Over the past year, our collaborations have played a crucial role in advancing our mission. From co-hosting symposiums and capacity-building workshops to working with global allies to amplify our advocacy efforts, our network of partners has

# STORYTELLING & PUBLICATIONS



Over the past year, MHSR have produced impactful content that not only document womens Right and also Gender Based Violence but also highlights stories of courage, community, and resistance.



In addition to film, our research reports and publications have served as critical resources for advocacy, offering evidence-based insights that inform policy discussions and legal frameworks. By documenting real-life experiences and analyzing trends in discrimination and social attitudes, we have contributed to shaping a more informed and just society.

# IMPACT & ACHIEVEMENTS in 2025

800+

clients served in the  
MHSR Sexual Health and Wellness Clinic (Lagos and Edo)

800+

Peers  
reached

100%

Activities achieved as at  
December 2025





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